



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 15, 2011

**TO:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager

**THROUGH:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Kevin Dick, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
G. Christopher Dickey, Senior Manager, Economic Development  
Peter Coyle, Cultural and Business Initiatives Coordinator, OEWD

**SUBJECT:** Membership of the Cultural Advisory Board, its Public Art Committee and a Working Definition of Public Art

### Executive Summary

This item has been prepared to answer questions from the City Council at the February 10, 2011 City Council Work Session, concerning the membership of the Cultural Advisory Board's Public Art Committee and concerning the definition of "public art."

### Recommendation

None – this is for informational purposes only.

### Background

On January 4, 2010, the City Council adopted a resolution to create the Cultural Advisory Board (CAB), replacing the earlier City/County Cultural Master Plan Advisory Board. The defined purpose of the CAB is to "serve as an advisory committee to the City Manager and City Council regarding the implementation of the Durham Cultural Master Plan, the implementation of a public art program, the implementation of programs and projects to promote economic and workforce development through cultural sector projects and such other responsibilities as the Council may choose to assign." Based upon the purpose, two of the objectives of the Cultural Master Plan were to connect with the Business Committee for the Arts, a national effort led by the Americans for the Arts organization and to assess Durham's capacity as a place with cultural arts – an objective that would be achieved by a Creative Vitality Index.

At the City Council Work Session on Thursday, February 10, 2011, representatives of The Durham Arts Council, the Cultural Advisory Board and the Business Committee for the Arts presented information concerning the Creative Vitality Index, the Business Committee for the Arts and plans for the Cultural Advisory Board to present a proposal to the City Council concerning a public art policy for the City. Members of the City Council requested information concerning the membership of the Cultural Advisory Board and its Public Art Committee as well as a working definition of public art.

#### The Cultural Advisory Board Composition

The Public Art Committee is advisory to the City Council-appointed Cultural Advisory Board. All decisions of the Public Art Committee are subject to review by the Cultural Advisory Board. The demographics of the Cultural Advisory Board are:

African American Female - 5  
African American Male - 1  
White Female - 3  
White Male - 3

African American – 6  
White - 6

Female – 8  
Male – 4

All meetings of the Cultural Advisory Board and Public Art Committee are open to the public and advertised through the City Clerk's public meeting notice process.

#### The Cultural Advisory Board Public Art Committee Composition

Members of the CAB are appointed by the City Council. To carry out the responsibility regarding the implementation of a public art program, the CAB established a Public Art Committee, as a subcommittee of the CAB. All decisions and recommendations of the Public Art Committee are subject to review and approval by the CAB.

The guidelines for membership established by the Board for Public Art Committee membership are as follows:

three members including the committee chair, shall be members of the Cultural Advisory Board,

three members shall be professional artists or professionals in related fields, including but not limited to architecture and landscape architecture, and

three members shall be members of the general public, with knowledge or experience in public art projects or related activities.

Members shall live or work in Durham.

Members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Cultural Advisory Board, subject to review by the Board.

An application process was established for the six non-board member positions and notice was made available for a period of one month. Seventeen members of the community applied and were reviewed by the Board. Consideration was given to professional background, experience with the arts and design, experience with development issues, community involvement and diversity, including ethnic, gender and geographical location of residency and place of employment. The Board's goal was to provide a citizen advisory body with expertise in a variety of fields relevant to the discussion of public art. The members selected bring a range of knowledge and experience.

The nine committee members include the Director of the Nasher Museum of Art, an artist, a landscape architect, a developer, a real estate broker, staff members from the Durham Arts Council and Downtown Durham Incorporated, an audio/video engineer who was a leader in the very successful Georges Rousse project, and an arts project consultant who, prior to moving to Durham, was involved in the creation and implementation of the City of Minneapolis public art program.

The current committee members are:

Joshua Parker, Developer; Vice Chair, Cultural Advisory Board; Chair Public Art Committee

Todd H. Bond, Artist; owner, Through His Brush (dba Fast Frame 561); member, Carolinas Minority Supplier Business Council

Matthew Coppedge, Director of Marketing, Downtown Durham Incorporated; Cultural Advisory Board member

Sherry DeVries, Executive Director, Durham Arts Council; Cultural Advisory Board member; Chair, CAB Education Committee

Linda Shropshire Grissom, Real Estate Broker, Urban Durham Realty

Mark Hough, Landscape Architect, Duke University; board member, Keep Durham Beautiful; member, Durham Appearance Commission

Noel James, Project Arts Consultant, self employed; former Director, Minneapolis Office of Cultural Affairs

Frank Konhaus, Audio/Video System Design Engineer, KONTEK Systems Inc.; member Friends of Photography of the N.C. Museum of Art

Kim Rorschach, Director, Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University

#### Demographics:

African American Female - 2: Grissom, James

African American Male – 1: Bond

White Female - 2: DeVries, Rorschach  
White Male – 4: Coppedge, Hough, Konhaus, Parker

African American – 3  
White – 6

Female – 4  
Male – 5

Of the nine current members of the Public Art Committee, seven live in Durham. The two members who live in Chapel Hill are Nasher Museum Director Kim Rorschach and Frank Konhaus, whose business is located in downtown Durham.

### A Working Definition of Public Art

The definition of public art varies in different localities, but a common core definition is contained in the Raleigh Arts Commission document “Proposal to Establish a City of Raleigh Public Art Program.” It reads, in part:

Public artworks may be permanent, temporary, integral to buildings and landscapes, designed elements in a city’s infrastructure, or markers of contemporary place and time. Regardless of the type of work of art, the best public art programs in the country strive for artistic excellence, commit themselves to a collaborative process with the community’s many constituent interests, and provide public education outreach as integral to the artist’s process.

The Cultural Advisory Board is in the process of developing a working definition of public art appropriate to the Durham community. Anticipated elements of that definition include:

- i. Original visual art including, but not limited to, sculptures, murals, photographic renderings, mosaics and electronic art installations installed on a permanent basis in spaces which are visible from public streets and pedestrian walkways, free of any admission fee, through a public process providing opportunities for community input;
- ii. Original visual art installed on a temporary basis, for a period of not less than 90 days, in public spaces designated as public art exhibition areas for temporary installations;
- iii. Free public performances of music, dance, drama and other performing arts in areas designated as free public art performance spaces, presented by local sponsors, outside of their normal programming with priority given to performances that recur multiple times at the location ;
- iv. Artist-designed public amenities including, but not limited to, bicycle racks, benches, fountains, bus shelters, sidewalks and building facades.

The CAB intends to define a commissioning and approval process which will include community engagement and educational outreach as important components, as well as consultation with appropriate City departments to assure conformity with City policies.

**Alternatives**

N/A

cc: Michael Schoenfeld, Chair, Cultural Advisory Board